

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9943
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY MANILA
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S E C R E T JAKARTA 14582

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL SECURITY

REF : MANILA 13736

1. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA INCLUDES REFERENCE TO REGIONAL SECURITY. FY 1974 PARA STATES OUR MODEST PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA IS INTENDED INTER ALIA TO "BUILD AN INDONESIAN CAPABILITY FOR INTERNAL DEFENSE AND LIMITED PARTICIPATION IN EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN REGIONAL SECURITY." ADDITIONALLY FY 75-79 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES MEMORANDUM (POM) STATES, "CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTENANCE OF FRIENDLY GOI RELATIONS WITH THE US AND INDONESIA'S FREE WORLD NEIGHBORS."

2. WHILE WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO ASSIST INDONESIA -
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WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF MAP FUNDING - TO ACQUIRE A

CAPABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL SECURITY, WE SEE SOME PROBLEMS IN OUR ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING INDONESIA TO MOVE WITH ITS ASEAN AND OTHER NEIGHBORS TO IMPROVE THEIR COLLECTIVE CAPABILITIES AT A FASTER PACE THAN THEY HAVE SO FAR CHOSEN.

3. INDONESIA, WHICH SEEKS A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ASEAN AND IN THE AREA IN GENERAL, ALREADY HAS BILATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OF A LIMITED NATURE WITH SEVERAL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. MOST IMPORTANTLY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA HAVE ESTABLISHED A JOINT BORDER COMMISSION AND THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE COOPERATED IN ACTUAL MILITARY OPERATIONS AND HAVE CONDUCTED JOINT GROUND EXERCISES. JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES HAVE ALSO BEEN HELD WITH AUSTRALIA AND, TO A VERY LIMITED EXTENT, WITH THE PHILIPPINES. WITH ALL ASEAN NATIONS AND AUSTRALIA, INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IS EXCHANGED. ADDITIONALLY INDONESIA HAS LED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEMINAR FOR ASEAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVES. (THE THREE-MONTH SEMINAR NOW IN SESSION IN JAKARTA MAY BE REPEATED NEXT YEAR HOSTED BY ONE OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES.) IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, WE HAVE ALWAYS APPLAUDED THESE INDONESIAN EFFORTS IN BI-LATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE OURSELVES.

4. AS WE SEE IT, GOI HAS TO DATE REFRAINED FROM INITIATIVES FOR WIDER REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF (A) APPRECIATION OF LINGERING SUSPICIONS HARBORED BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES STEMMING FROM DAYS OF SUKARNO'S "CONFRONTATION" POLICY AND (B) INDONESIA'S LIMITED MILITARY RESOURCES IN VIEW OF THE GOI POLICY OF GIVING PRIMACY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT US POLICY DESCRIBED IN PARAS 1) AND 2) ABOVE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. UNLESS WE ARE VERY DISCREET IN ENCOURAGING INDONESIA TO IMPROVE COLLECTIVE CAPABILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION, WE RUN RISK OF ENCOURAGING GOI IN COURSE WHICH COULD INCREASE MILITARY EXPENDITURES AT THE EXPENSE

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OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND/OR REVIVE FEARS AS TO INDONESIA'S INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF HER NEIGHBORS.

6. ALSO, REGIONAL COOPERATION (MAINLY IN THE FORM OF ASEAN) HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY NATIONS OF THE AREA WITHOUT FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. INDONESIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TOLD US THAT THEY FEEL THIS "SLOW

BUT SURE" METHOD IS A MORE LASTING ONE, AND THAT THEY
APPRECIATE OUR NOT ATTEMPTING TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN
ANY WAY. WE TEND TO AGREE.

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